

TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

DATE: 5/13/14

Draft

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Kathy Longacre at 6:05 PM.

TAC members present: Bruce Hilton (Commission liaison), Carolyn Huddleston (ECOSLO), Kathy Longacre, Dallam Oliver-Lee, Paul Winkler
Staff: Larry laquinto, Elizabeth Kavanaugh, Kelli Schonher (mapping contractor)

2. Public comment. none

3. Review notes: TAC March 11 meeting – March notes were approved.

4. Parks and Recreation Commission Report to TAC – Kathy reported over 30 people attended the last PRC meeting in support of allocation of County Parks Public Facility (PFF) funds for the purchase of the Pismo Preserve. PRC voted to recommend that BOS allocate \$1.1 million. The item goes before the BOS on Tuesday 5/20 in the morning.

5. Update on Planning Activities and OTO's - Senior Planner Shaun Cooper

Bob Jones Trail - The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was released for public comments on August 19. Comments were accepted until October 21. Based on public comments, the alternatives section will be revised and recirculated for public comments. The revised alternatives section will include an alternative incorporating the east side alignment along S. Higuera St., a realigned pathway route for the section between Monte Rd. and Hwy 101, and additional analysis for the Hwy 101 undercrossing alternative. The recirculated section is expected to be released for public comments in summer 2014, with a final EIR presented to the Board of Supervisors by the end of 2014.

Octagon Barn Staging Area – County Parks is coordinating with the Land Conservancy on the Octagon Barn site improvements that will serve the Bob Jones Trail staging area. Parks is working on hiring a consultant to complete the construction documents for the parking lot and S. Higuera left turn lane improvements. The goal is to have these improvements constructed in the fall of 2014.

The agreement between the Land Conservancy and County Parks, outlining the shared use of the site and the proposed improvements, is planned to go to the Board of Supervisors for approval on June 3.

Avila to Hartford Pier Path – This project is currently under contract for the Opportunities/Constraints Analysis and Preliminary Design. The project was presented at the August 13 Bicycle Advisory Committee with a request that the County Bikeways Plan be amended to remove the proposed class II bike route along Avila Beach Dr. between First St., in Avila Beach, and the Harford Pier parking lot. This change in the plan will allow space for the projects planned non-motorized multi-use bicycle/pedestrian pathway adjacent to Avila Beach Dr. A second community

workshop, to present the preliminary design, will be planned for spring, 2014. The workshop will be held at the Coastal Gateway Building at Port San Luis.

Templeton to Atascadero Connector Trail – This segment of the Salinas River Trail will connect the community of Templeton to the City of Atascadero with a Class I multi-use pedestrian/ bicycle pathway. Currently a Request for Proposals has been solicited to hire a consultant to complete the CEQA and NEPA processes, design, Right-of-Way acquisition, permits, preparation of construction documents, and grand administration.

Morro Bay to Cayucos Connector – An application for a coastal development permit is being prepared for submittal to the County Planning Department and the California Coastal Commission. A contract is being completed to hire a consulting team to complete the NEPA documents, permits, right of way, and construction documents for the project.

Cave Landing Trail – The County Planning Commission approved the project and the environmental determination at their July 25 meeting. Appeals to the County Board of Supervisors were considered and denied at the November 5, Board of Supervisors meeting. The appellants have filed appeals to the Coastal Commission. A Coastal Commission hearing is scheduled for June. Over \$1,400,000 in grant funding has been secured for construction completion.

Sapwi Trail Extension- Environmental review is completed. Volunteers will complete work as time and weather conditions allow.

Santa Margarita to Garden Farms Trail Easements- Property owner and County are working on the terms of the Easement Agreement (agreement has been reviewed and edited by Parks Staff, County Counsel, and Real Property Services). SLOPOST hired a surveyor to prepare legal descriptions and exhibits of the trail easements to be included as part of agreement. The easement alignments were presented to the Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council on June 12, and received support. On June 27, the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended that the easement alignments and agreement be approved by the Board of Supervisors. The legal descriptions and agreement are complete. Once the documents are approved and signed by the landowner, the easement agreement will be scheduled for approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Vineyard Trail- The County, Vineyard Estates HOA and the adjacent property owner have been working on coordinating an east west trail connecting Paseo Exselsus to Malvasia Court, within the existing county trail easement. This trail easement has been considered for development based on interest and funding support from a number of sources including: Templeton Recreation Foundation; SLOPOST; and private citizen donations.

Kathy asked if anyone has heard anything further on the RTP from SLO to Pismo Master Plan.

6. Staff Report- Larry Iaquinto

Salinas District

Blinn Trail/ Fire Road - Work continues on the 6 mile trail for the next few weeks.

CALFIRE and the CCCs will be working in conjunction on this project.

Jim Green Trail - Continued water bar installation.

Vineyard trail - met with Jeremy Freud representing Olson.

Mesa District

Mesa Meadows, Cypress Ridge, Knollwood, Calendar Grove - Continued identification, marking and monitoring of trail hazards – work has begun repairing some uplifted sites.

Bob Jones Trail – 150 foot section of trail near Blue Heron receiving a 6 to 12 foot wood border to shore up undermined asphalt. Additionally continued enforcement of motorized vehicles at Bob Jones Trail.

Huasna

Mountain Lion siting confirmed on the Duna Vista Trail 4:30pm 3/16/2014 - protocol followed. The CCC completed fuel reduction work on the Wittenberg Road, maintenance area, and along the Cougar Trail.

Additional Informational items.

Attendance at the Outdoor Festival at Lopez Lake was about the same as last year, 1500 to 2000. More kids signed up for the DEER program this year.

The first Annual Run or Dye event was held at El Chorro Park with about 8500 participants. County had no idea how popular the event would be and will be better prepared for the event next time.

7. State Parks Report - Brooke Gutierrez. No report.

Kathy wanted TAC to know that the new Oats Peak Trail was opened to both equestrians and mountain bikes on April 7th. Responses to the new trail have all been positive.

8. Immediate goals and objectives.

a) Anza Trail/ North County – Dorothy Jennings

Anza Trail events. The National Park Service, Atascadero Mutual Water Company and the City of Paso Robles will present opportunities to explore the Anza Trail, Friday May 16 and Saturday 17. Talking history – the Anza Trail & Spanish Settlement of California. Walking history – Guided River Walk and ribbon-cutting for four interpretive signs. The Amigos de Anza-SLO participated in the themes selected for the Anza Trail interpretive signs.

b) Anza Trail/ South County – Bruce Hilton and Dallam Oliver-Lee

Dallam said that the Bicycle Coalition sent a letter in support of requiring the trail easement in the PXP EIR and adding a left-hand turn lane into PXP from Price Canyon Road.

Juan Bautista de Anza Trail - Progress of the trail outside SLO County, informational, and additional history:

http://www.anzahistorictrail.org/noticias/Noticias_59_April_2014_lo_res.pdf

c) Coastal Trails Update - Nancy Graves

Nancy had no report on the Ca. Coastal Trail but is following both the Ontario Ridge issue and the Chorro Valley Feasibility Study.

d) Bob Jones Trail - Helene Finger

Prado Rd to LOVR connection: Ribbon cutting ceremony was May 4th. Octagon Barn Staging Area: The operating agreement has been approved by Land Conservancy board and the Parks & Rec Commission. The BOS will vote on the agreement at their June 3rd meeting. On May 5, 2014, the County will issue two RFPs (with a two week due date) for finalizing engineered plans and construction documents for the parking lot and left-hand turn lane.

Octagon Barn to Ontario Rd connection: The contract amendments for the work proposal to prepare a Recirculated Draft EIR (RDEIR) focusing on analysis of new project alternatives was a consent item for the BOS on May 6th. The schedule shows 26 weeks to publish the final EIR (including incorporation of and response to public comments).

Friends of the Bob Jones Trail: The Friends group hosted a stakeholders meeting on April 8th at the barn. Over 50 people attended the meeting and all comments expressed support for the project. A trail workday is being planned, potentially in conjunction with EcoSLO in June or July.

Dallam added that the County Board of Supervisors approved Amendment #1 on May 6, 2014 to the original contract with Pacific Municipal Consultants to provide additional consultant services for Bob Jones Pathway Environmental Impact Report in the amount of \$80,250.

e) Nipomo Pathways & Woodlands Trail – Patty Fuller and Sheila Patterson

Patty and Sheila will be not be able to attend the meeting and sent in this report.

Various Ride Nipomo members completed approximately 14 hours clean up/ maintenance throughout the trail system. However, there are other members that do clean up and forget to log their hours. I am guilty of that too! The eucalyptus trees are very dry and riders tend to avoid the wooded areas in the heavy winds.

On a good note; RN raised some additional monies for the Pismo Preserve Project. Herb Kandel from the Land Conservancy Board was present to answer questions and provide information on the project.

You can follow Central Coast Equestrians's fundraising here:

<http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/centralCoastEquestrians/centralcoastequestriansfundraisingpage.com/fundraiser/centralCoastEquestrians/centralcoastequestriansfundraisingpage>

and please forward this link to other equestrians/bikers and hikers. We are so close.

There will be a fundraiser for the Pismo Preserve on 5/17 at Yellow Jacket Ranch.

f) Templeton Easements / Vineyard Trail – Paul Winkler

Larry said that there was another meeting with neighbors, Vicki Shelby, Jeremy/Olson and Jeremy proposed another route. County Parks will look at that opportunity separate from the east/west connection that they are ready to proceed with. Larry wanted confirmation that the funding from SLOPOST/Winklers was still available and both Kathy and Paul confirmed there is \$10K for the trail.

Paul reported that the Vineyard HOA has committed \$4800 per year to the maintenance of the Vineyard Trail. Paul feels that finally the HOA recognizes that the residents of the Vineyard Estates are the main beneficiaries of the trail.

g) Atascadero Area Trail Connections – Jonalee Istenes – No report this month.

h) SM Lake Loop Trail and extension trail – Greg Bettencourt/Kathy Redden
No report this month.

i) Lopez Lake Trails

Ranger Kristin Howland is working on getting 2 big trail maps made for 2 kiosk locations. SLOPOST and Friends of Lopez have pledged \$1K each towards the approximate \$4k needed. Hopefully the County will allocate the needed funds.

j) Volunteer Coordination – Carolyn Huddleston, ECOSLO

Hike-a-thon. ECOSLO is holding their 2nd annual **Hike-a-thon** fundraiser during the month of May. The event is open to hikers, bikers, equestrians, and other trail users; and will motivate participants to collect pledges, log trail miles, and collect data on trail conditions. Carolyn said there is still time to participate.

9. Approval of Trail Committee Applications. No new applications.

10. On going Action Items:

- . Update on trail connectivity with agencies - SLOCAPRA's October meeting
- . TAC Goals and Objectives for the coming year – July 1 through June 30
- . Protecting Trail Easement Conditions: prior to final map and following occupancy. Issues include safeguarding easement conditions of development and encroachments.
- . Possible joint staff meeting they could discuss with Planning and Public Works how to find out what could be done and how TAC might get involved in recommending solutions to the protection of easements.
- . Discuss development of a policy establishing Clearance Requirements for County Rights of Way (11/03).
- . Establish inventory, determine maintenance and signage needs for trails.

11. New Business

a) Chorro Valley Trail Feasibility Study

Elizabeth presented the Chorro Valley Trail Feasibility Study with great colored maps and explained the different routes they are looking at. TAC recommends to the PRC that they support SLOCOG's efforts on the proposed Chorro Valley Trail. It goes before the SLOCOG Board on 6/5.

12. Old Business

a) Access to the Garcia Wilderness

Conversations continue between the private property owner, County Parks and County Public Works.

b) Equestrian Parking on Grand Ave.

This is an ongoing effort.

c) Proposed joint meeting, Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) and TAC

Meeting will be November 18 one week later than usual because of Veterans Day holiday.

d) Proposed joint meeting, Parks Commission and TAC.

Meeting will be September 25 and will be part of the Parks Commission regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Dorothy and Bruce will recommend topics for discussion.

e) Ontario Ridge Trail

Dallam furnished the following report

Ontario Ridge Trail (Cave Landing Road Trailhead) - McCarthy's have installed new signs saying "No Admittance" and installed new replacement fencing along Cave Landing Road around May 7, 2014. Currently there is no easy way to hike Ontario Ridge Trail from Cave Landing Road. Requires people to climb over gate on Cave Landing Road. View of ocean is obstructed by McCarthy's barbwire fencing along the trail. Parts of the trail is littered by McCarthy's barbwire fence and dangerous to the public. Ontario Ridge Trail used a lot by young children with their parents. McCarthy's appears to be violation of building fences without permits and ignoring Coastal Commission and County of San Luis Obispo. McCarthy's fencing is not exempt from LCP Sections 23.03.040(d)(2) and 23.04.306(b)(13). Fencing is blocking the public trail access from County of San Luis Obispo land that is adjacent to McCarthy's. McCarthy's fencing Complaints are being made by the public and the public is being directed to complain and/or forwarded to Coastal Commission by County staff.

Ontario Ridge Trail (Shell Beach Road Trailhead) - City of Pismo Beach installed several "No Public Access" signs at the trail entrance on Shell Beach Road back in February 2014 at the same time McCarthy's had fenced off their side. City of Pismo Beach removed all, but one "No Public Access" sign by numerous requests by the public in April 2014. Parts or all of trail on Pismo Beach side may appeared to be on Caltrans public right-of-way despite City of Pismo Beach trying to prevent public access. The public wants to use prescriptive rights if no public right of way exists through here.

Google Streetview pictures of Ontario Ridge Trail taken by me this May 2014:

<https://www.google.com/maps/views/view/110442825296262102991/photo/dV3Ggv4BcMgAAAQWnkMW5A>

<https://www.google.com/maps/views/view/110442825296262102991/photo/mCMcCYRI9GsAAAQWs8en2g>

<https://www.google.com/maps/views/view/110442825296262102991/photo/gzu1Ao7X0bMAAAQWs8en2w>

Ontario Ridge Trail Pictures taken this May 2014:

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0Bzl0QdRnFOS4NGc4YzhsNTdUYzA>

Pictures of Ontario Ridge Trail at Cave Landing Road prior to McCarthy's fencing on pages 5-11:

http://www.coastal.ca.gov/access/OntarioRidge_PrescriptiveRights.pdf

Public Easement documents concerning McCarthy's land:

http://www.newtimesslo.com/files/Ontario_Ridge_Trail.pdf

Tract Map of Ontario Ridge on Pismo Beach side:

http://maps.slocountymaps.com/MB/MB_016/MB_016_026_002.tif

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Next meeting is Tuesday July 8 at 6 PM